

## AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE: MINUTES OF THE 2006 FALL MEETING

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On November 7–9, 2006, the ANSTF met at the Holiday Inn in Arlington, VA. This document includes the following sections:

- Summary of the three-day ANSTF meeting
- A list of acronyms used (Appendix A)
- Flipchart notes from breakout sessions on rapid response (Appendix B)

### ANSTF SPRING MEETING NOVEMBER 7–9, 2006

#### Decisions

The ANSTF made the following decisions:

- Approved minutes of the May 2006 ANSTF meeting.
- Approved definition of “rapid response,” pending the addition of qualifying language about economics being part of the assessment.
- Approved cosponsorship of a symposium on genetic methods of biological control of invasive fish as the opportunity presents itself.
- Confirmed Kim Bogenschutz (Iowa DNR) as co-chair of the MRBP.
- Confirmed David Yeager (Mobile Bay National Estuary Program) as chair and Earl Chilton (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) as vice-chair of the GSARP.
- Authorized Executive Secretary to work as necessary to amend the Intel ISEF rules to incorporate concerns about nonnative species in science fairs.

#### Action Items

- (ANSTF members) Submit review comments on the rapid response plan for zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) in the Columbia River Basin by December 1.
- (Detection and Monitoring Committee) Review/revise the committee description and provide a draft to the Executive Secretary by the end of January.
- (CEO Committee) Review the committee description and revise if necessary.
- (CEO Committee) Coordinate with regional panels on potential education/outreach direction.
- (Research Committee) Revise the research protocols and present the draft at the next ANSTF meeting.
- (ANSTF/Executive Secretary) Send a letter to the federal agencies conveying the high priority that the ANSTF places on research into economic impacts of ANS, encourage the agencies to fund studies, and request existing economic studies.
- (ANSTF/Executive Secretary) Send a letter to the ACOE expressing support for the Aquatic Plant Control Cost Share Research Program.
- (ANSTF/Executive Secretary) Prepare a letter to state governors for co-chairs’ signature (recognition and appreciation for state efforts to date and encouragement of future efforts in this area).



























































## APPENDIX A—ACRONYMS USED

|        |  |       |   |
|--------|--|-------|---|
| ACOE   | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                             | MEPC  | Marine Environment Protection Committee (IMO committee) |
| AFWA   | Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies                | MICRA | Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association |
| AIS    | aquatic invasive species                                 | MOA   | memorandum of agreement                                 |
| ANS    | aquatic nuisance species                                 | MOU   | memorandum of understanding                             |
| ANSTF  | Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force                      | MRBP  | Mississippi River Basin Panel                           |
| APHIS  | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service               | NAISA | National Aquatic Invasive Species Act                   |
| BLG    | Bulk Liquids and Gases (IMO subcommittee)                | NASAC | National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators  |
| BW     | ballast water  | NEANS | Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species (Regional Panel)     |
| CDR    | Commander  | NEPA  | National Environmental Policy Act                       |
| CEO    | Communication, Education, and Outreach (ANSTF committee) | NGO   | nongovernmental organization                            |
| CWA    | Clean Water Act  | NISC  | National Invasive Species Council                       |
| DEQ    | Department of Environmental Quality                      | NMP   | national management plan                                |
| DNR    | Department of Natural Resources                          | NOAA  | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration         |
| EA     | environmental assessment                                 | NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System         |
| EDRR   | (or ED/RR) early detection/rapid response                | NPS   | National Park Service                                   |
| EPA    | (see USEPA)  | PIJAC | Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council                     |
| ETV    | Environmental Technology Verification                    | PSMFC | Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission              |
| GLC    | Great Lakes Commission                                   | RR    | rapid response  |
| GLP    | Great Lakes Panel  | RRP   | rapid response plan                                     |
| GSARP  | Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel                   | SERC  | Smithsonian Environmental Research Center               |
| GSMFC  | Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission                  | SMP   | state management plan                                   |
| HACCP  | Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points                  | STEP  | Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program                 |
| ICS    | Incident Command System                                  | UC    | unified command   |
| IMO    | International Maritime Organization                      | USCG  | U.S. Coast Guard  |
| ISEF   | Intel Science and Engineering Fair                       | USEPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency                    |
| ISAC   | Invasive Species Advisory Committee                      | USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                          |
| MARAD  | U.S. Maritime Administration                             | USGS  | U.S. Geological Survey                                  |
| MARP   | Mid-Atlantic Regional Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel     | VVIC  | virally vectored immunocontraception                    |
| McAHRT | Mitten Crab Ad Hoc Response Team                         | WRP   | Western Regional Panel                                  |

## APPENDIX B—FLIPCHART NOTES REGARDING RAPID RESPONSE

### Breakout Group 1

#### Organizational Barriers

- Multiple jurisdictions (starts local)
  - Can be + or –
  - Need to arrive at decision by lead agencies
- Lack of process to make decision that urgent action is needed (and lack of support by some agency leaders)
- Public support/awareness to initiate rapid response? (e.g., private property access)
- Need to build local response capacity/partnerships

#### Organizational Barriers (cont.)

- “It’s not a problem yet” =educational barrier with agency leaders → economic data + communications
- Need for decision-support tools (accepted by all players) (modules, etc.)
- State laws restricting tools such as chemicals in emergency response (need fast track; national lead)

#### Barriers/Removal

- Cooperative Weed Management Area model
  - Authorities to enforce
- Questions/lack of adequate tools that are effective to contain/eradicate
- Need more complete planning process
- Share experiences/models
- Available \$/resources
  - Support “release time” for staff to help

#### Barriers/Removal (cont.)

- Develop guide to state and federal permit/regulatory processes, using EPA document as model, then address any existing barriers that were identified
- Treat invasive species more akin to fire/other emergencies
- Need more success stories and communicate them better
- Need economic estimates of impacts to support investment in rapid response
- Dedicated funding source for approved rapid response plans (NAISA as one option)

#### Barriers/Removal (cont.)

- High-level proclamation regarding ANS impacts to ecosystems
- Lack of information on ANS biology to guide rapid response
- Proactive risk assessment for species not yet here

#### General Issues

- Federal role vs. states, species, lands, etc.
- Ability to recognize need for help/scaling up

**Breakout Group 2****Tools**

1. Permits in place to use chemicals
  - Federal consistency
  - NPDES permits
  - State rapid response planning, federal EPA role to develop partially completed permits
2. Need more information about
  - Invasives—particular species
  - Physiology, basic biology, impacts
  - Controls
  - Predicting invasives
  - ID guides, taxonomic expertise (funding, unified webpage USGS)

**Tools (cont.)**

3. Consistent reporting
4. \$ funding! Way to get it and way to spend it!  
Pool of money, protected
5. Quick ways to do risk assessments/include economic
6. NEPA and other laws
  - Categorical exclusion for ANS rapid response
7. Need list of authorities and permits needed from every agency (e.g., EPA guide)
8. Rapid response plan
  - Support development by states

**Tools (cont.)**

9. ICS training—appropriate state or federal personnel
10. Staff needs to be trained in ANS management
  - 1 ANS coordinator in each state and equipment (networks)
11. Education to vector groups
  - Before an invasion
  - Outreach after initial discovery
  - Outreach to publications (anything unusual, contact \_\_\_\_)
12. Gap analysis for responsibility on state level

**Tools (cont.)**

13. Guidelines for dealing with media
14. Clearinghouse for reporting suspicious organisms; list of experts
15. Ecological surveys and monitoring programs
16. Develop tools for eradication and control

### Breakout Group 3

#### What should a model RRP contain?

Overall tips: Keep size of document small and information in manageable sizes

- Permits/consultations needed
- Agency roles and responsibilities (including tribes, stakeholders, private lands)
- Develop criteria for trigger mechanisms
- Response organization (perhaps identifying administrator/keeper of updating plan or lead e-mailer)
- Unified Command
- Generic objectives and priorities

#### What should a model RRP contain? (cont.)

- Contact information—management, regulatory, and stakeholders
- Maps (so can be easily marked up) and photos
- Media relations plan, approach
- Identification of resources—money, personnel, physical (boats available?), scientific expertise
- Technical capability for resources
- Communication plan—information flow from and to field staff
- Training in advance—safety reqs, certifications (applicator’s license?), other

#### What should a model RRP contain? (cont.)

- Mediation/conflict resolution approach
- Checklists
- Gap analysis of roles/responsibilities
- MOUs/MOAs
- Evaluation of response (post-event, ongoing, field check-ins, debriefings after action)
- Post-event response monitoring approach
- Assurance that higher levels are aware of plan(s) and activities
- Control methods/tools available for various scenarios
- Who “owns” the plan? (for updates, notification)

#### How should RRP be organized?

1. Main part—generic elements such as permits, etc.
  - General overview of positions—position-specific guidance
  - Purpose, introduction (brief overview of lessons learned from utilizing rapid response)
2. Appendices that can be specific, updated, adapted—checklists, maps, photos, contact lists, etc.